

## Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 IO-13 COME-00 CAB-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /110 W

----- 116417

P R 171125Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3784

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: DECON AUG. 18, 1974

TAGS: PINS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO AUG. 16 MEA HIJACKING

1. HIJACKING OF LEBANESE MEA AIRLINER AUG. 16 DOMINATED BEIRUT PRESS TODAY. ONLY RIGHTWING AL AMAL, CONSERVATIVE AL YAYAT AND MODERATE AL JARIDA CARRIED HEADLINE DESCRIBING HIJACKER AS "DRUNKEN LIBYAN," WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER PAPERS, ESPECIALLY LEFTIST ORGANS, INSISTED HE WAS "ISRAELI AGENT". EDITORIALY, INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR COMMENTED: "IT IS NOT COINCIDENCE THAT YESTERDAY'S OPERATION FOLLOWS UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION BY SC OF ISRAEL," AND VIEWED IT AS ISRAEL FLAUNTING ITS CONTEMPT FOR WORLD OPINION. SUGGESTED ISRAEL HAD RECRUITED LIBYAN FOR ZIONIST ENDS TO EMBARRASS QADHAFI FOR CHAMPIONING PALESTINIAN CAUSE. NAHRA CONCLUDED ISRAEL WAS TRANSFERRING ME STRUGGLE TO AIR-

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LINES IN ORDER DISTRACT WORLD ATTENTION FROM HER

OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS.

2. WITH MOST PAPERS QUESTIONING HIJACKER'S TRUE IDENTITY, IT NOT SURPRISING THAT WIDE SEGMENT OF LEBANESE OPINION (INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER FROM READING UNBIASED NEWS STORIES) HAS CONVINCED ITSELF THAT ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION LIES IN SOME NEW AND DIABOLICAL ISRAELI PLOT. (IN THIS RESPECT, DEP. ASST. SECY. ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO ISRAELI AMB. DINITZ -- C.F., STATE 163114 NOTAL --WERE RIGHT ON TARGET.) WE NOTE FEDAYEEN VIA THEIR VARIOUS PROPAGANDA ORGANS ARE PLAYING THIS THEME FOR ALL IT WORTH, CLAIMING, INTER ALIA, THAT INCIDENT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE FATAH LEADER SALAH KHALAF AND WAS CARRIED OUT IN FASHION THAT WOULD ENABLE GOI AVOID RENEWED UN CONDEMNATION. AS USUAL, LEBANESE LEFT HAS SUCKED UP SUCH NONSENSE GREEDILY, KAMAL JUMBLATT GOING SO FAR AS TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE TOO HAS BEEN TARGETED FOR CAPTURE BY ISRAEL.  
BUFFUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BEIRUT09771  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaaxln.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
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EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO AUG. 16 MEA HIJACKING  
**TAGS:** PINS, LE, IS, MID EAST AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005